

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4002

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: RECONVENTION OF PARLIAMENT AND POSSIBLE CABINET CHANGES

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING FIRST POST-ELECTION CABINET MEETING, JULY 16, PRIMIN TRUDEAU ANNOUNCED HE WOULD AKS CONVENING OF PARLIAMENT SEPTEMBER 26. WHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT, E.G., FOR SPECIAL LEGISLATION IN LABOR DISPUTES, OPENING CAN READILY BE ADVANCED.

2. TRUDEAU REFUSED ANY COMMENT ON POSSIBLE CABINET CHANGES, EXCEPT TO ANNOUNCE THAT ENVIRONMENT AND FISHERIES MIN DAVIS, ONLY CABINET MEMBER DEFEATED IN ELECTIONS, WOULD CONTINUE HOLD PORTFOLIO FOR TIME BEING. PRESS IS SPECULATING ABOUT WIDE-RANGING CABINET RESHUFFLE, INCLUDING POSSIBLY NAMING MITCHELL SHARP TO NEW POSITION OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, AND REPLACING HIM AT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, PERHAPS WITH FINANCE MIN TURNER. HOWEVER, ONE SENIOR CABINET MINISTER TOLD EMBOFF INFORMALLY HE DOUBTED THERE WOULD BE MAJOR CHANGES, OTHER THAN REPLACING DAVIS AND NAMING NEW SPEAKER, PERHAPS UNTIL MID-WINTER OR LATER. SOURCE POINTED OUT TRUDEAU'S PROBLEM IN FORMING NEW CABINET DESPITE PERSONAL PRE-EMINENCE DEMONSTRATED IN ELECTION RESULTS. THERE ARE SEVERAL MINISTERS  
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WHOSE PERFORMANCES HAVE DRAWN SHARP AND OCCASIONALY

JUSTIFIED CRITICISMS; THERE ARE OTHERS WHO WANT AND DESERVE MORE IMPORTANT POSTS; AND THERE ARE SEVERAL VERY CAPABLE LIBERAL BACKBENCHERS OVERDUE FOR CABINET ASSIGNMENT. NEVERTHELESS, PRESENT GROUP IS A WINNING TEAM, AND DIFFICULT CHANGE WITHOUT GOOD REASON. SOURCE SAID TRUDEAU, WHILE JUBILANT AT VICTORY, HAD LITTLE RELISH FOR TASK OF ASKING SOME TO RELINQUISH PORTFOLIOS OR OF DISAPPOINTING NEW ASPIRANTS, AND WAS LIKELY TO PROCRASTINATE.

3. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL AT FIRST REFLECT ONLY "HOUSEKEEPING" CHANGES. ENVIRONMENT AND FISHERIES MIGHT BE DIVIDED INTO TWO PORTFOLIOS. MOST TALKED OF CANDIDATE FOR SPEAKER IS JAMES JEROME FROM SUDBURY, ONTARIO, BUT THERE ARE OTHERS, INCLUDING SCIENCE MIN JEANNE SUAVE, WHO WOULD BE FIRST WOMAN SPEAKER AND EMPHASIZE FACT THERE ARE NOW NINE FEMALE MPS, EIGHT OF THEM LIBERAL.  
JOHNSON

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## Message Attributes

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